

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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TAGS: EAGR, OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON AGRICULTURE
TRAINING IN US

REF: SOFIA 0191, STATE 278736

1. CU HAS CONTACTED INTERNATIONAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION AND
CHURCH OF BRETHREN AND SUBMITS HERewith PARTIAL ANSWERS TO
BULGARIAN QUESTIONS.

A. INTERNATIONAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION (OKAMOTA) REPORTS:

1. PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE FOOD, LODGING AND DOLS 95 PER
MONTH POCKET MONEY. PROGRAM ALSO PAYS NECESSARY DOMESTIC
RAVEL AND COSTS RELATED TO SOME EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.
2. BULGARIANS WOULD PAY ROUND TRIP INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO
NEW YORK.

3. INTERNATIONAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION ATTEMPTS TO MATCH
APPLICANT WITH TYPE OF FARM EXPERIENCE DESIRED.

4. OKAMOTA EMPHASIZES THIS IS NOT ACADEMIC PROGRAM. PAR-
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TICIPANTS WORK ON FARMS AND THEREFORE NEED AGRICULTURAL

BACKGROUND, SHOULD BE PHYSICALLY STRONG AND MUST HAVE ADEQUATE CONVERSATIONAL COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH.

B. CHURCH OF BRETHREN (LAMAR GIBBLE) OFFERS TWO TYPES OF PROGRAMS, ACADEMIC OR PRACTICAL. BULGARIANS WILL RECALL THAT STIPENDS RECEIVED BY PARTICIPANTS UNDER ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOLLOW STANDARD PROCEDURE (AND COVER HOUSING, FEES, FOOD, ETC.) PROGRAM INVOLVING PURELY PRACTICAL WORK SOMEWHAT SMALLER AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR STIPENDS MADE ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

1. NOMINATING COUNTRY PAYS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.

2. PROBLEMS WITH EARLIER BULGARIAN PROGRAM (WHICH WAS ACADEMIC) WERE TWO-FOLD. FIRST, LACK OF SUFFICIENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY HAMPERED BULGARIANS' SUCCESS AND GIBBLE'S ABILITY TO PLACE THEM. SECOND, BULGARIANS NOMINATED HIGH PERCENTAGE OF SENIOR UNIVERSITY PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO LIVING AT STUDENT OR RESEARCHER LEVEL AND WHO FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ADJUST TO U.S. UNIVERSITY LIFE STYLE.

3. IF BULGARIANS SHOULD CHOOSE THE PRACTICAL PROGRAM, GIBBLE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE EXPERIENCE DESIRED ON TYPE AND SIZE OF FARM REQUESTED. ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY FOR THIS EXPERIENCE WOULD REQUIRE CONVERSATIONAL AND READING ABILITY.

2. EMBASSY WILL UNDERSTAND FROM ABOVE THAT BULGARIANS WILL NEED TO WORK THIS EXCHANGE OUT FOR THEMSELVES. CU WILL FACILITATE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE BUT EMBASSY'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO CONVINCE BULGARIANS OF NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE KALOYANOV IS NOW AWARE OF BULGARIAN INTEREST IN PROGRAMS AND CU PROGRAM OFFICER HAS APPOINTMENT WITH HIM FEB 6.) YOU SHOULD STRESS NEED FOR ADEQUATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE WHICH IS THE SINE QUANON OF THESE PROGRAMS. KISSINGER

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